

# Kanab Field Office

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The following WSAs are managed by the Kanab Field Office:

- Canaan Mountain
- Moquith Mountain
- North Fork Virgin River
- Orderville Canyon
- Parunuweap

Note: Acreage shown is from the Utah Statewide Wilderness Report.

## Canaan Mountain

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**Size:** 4,300 acres

**Location:** In the far southwest portion of Kane County.

**Vegetation:** Most of the surface of the WSA is rock and bare soil; vegetation covers only about 20 percent of the WSA. Ponderosa pine mountain shrub is the dominant vegetative type, occupying about 75 percent of the WSA. Pinyon-Juniper Woodland covers approximately 19 percent, and sagebrush and riparian plants occupy the remainder of the vegetated portion of the study area.

**General Description:** The WSA is in the Vermilion Cliffs portion of the Grand Staircase, a series of terraces and colored cliffs at the southern edge of the High Plateaus Section of the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province. Canaan Mountain, a sheer plateau that rises 2,000 feet above surrounding land to an elevation of 7,340 feet, is the dominant feature of the WSA. Within the WSA are shallow lakes, springs, and 4 miles of perennial streams.



**Special Features:**

- Scenery is similar to that of Zion National Park.
- Canaan Mountain is an essentially intact expanse, unlike the smaller, separated plateau remnants in Zion National Park.
- There are waterfalls on perennial streams in deep, narrow canyons.
- A lumbering operation that existed on Canaan Mountain from 1915 to 1928 has significant local historical value.
- Four U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) candidates for threatened or endangered plant species may grow in the WSA: *Asplenium andrewsii*, *Erigeron sionis*, *Heterotheca jonesii*, and *Sphaeromeria ruthia*.
- The bald eagle, and peregrine falcon may occasionally visit the WSA; both species have been sighted in the vicinity.
- Nesting sites of the prairie falcon and golden eagle have been reported in the WSA.
- The WSA has populations of cougar and bobcat, and the habitat could support desert bighorn sheep.
- Other state sensitive or USFWS candidate or threatened species that may inhabit the WSA include, ferruginous hawk, Mexican spotted owl, long-billed curlew, western yellow billed cuckoo, and Bell's vireo.

# Moquith Mountain

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**Size:** 14,830 acres

**Location:** Four miles west of Kanab.

**Vegetation:** Moquith Mountain is a study in opposites. Its western edge is open sand dunes dotted with islands of vegetation. Its eastern edge is a series of deep canyons where ponderosa pine and Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands thrive from the rims to the floors of the canyon. In alcoves on the sides of these canyons, you can find hanging gardens and the sites of lost civilizations. In the spring-fed upper reaches of these canyons, you find a stunning array of plant life such as cottonwood, cliff rose, oaks and maples. Going on to the top of the mountain, you enter a forest of ponderosa pine, pinyon, juniper, sagebrush, manzanita and oak. Springs provide fresh water, making this a haven for wildlife.

**General Description:** Five distinct landforms comprise the WSA. In the central part are the Vermilion Cliffs, a “step” in the Grand Staircase, the southern end of the High Plateaus of the Utah Section of the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province. The north side of the Vermilion Cliffs terrace includes a portion of the Coral Pink Sand Dunes and an escarpment above the dunes. Several canyons cut into the WSA. Note: OHV use is permitted only on designated roads and on the open dunes.

**Special Features:**

- About 7,300 acres in the WSA are of outstanding scenic quality.
- Perennial streams, hanging gardens, shifting sand dunes, prehistoric sites
- The bald eagle and peregrine falcon may occasionally visit the area.
- State sensitive and USFWS candidate or threatened species which may inhabit the WSA include ferruginous hawk, Mexican spotted owl, long-billed curlew, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle.



# North Fork Virgin River

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**Size:** 1,040 acres

**Location:** The North Fork WSA lies directly adjacent to the northeast corner of Zion National Park.

**Vegetation:** About 21 percent of the WSA is covered in Pinyon-Juniper Woodland, ponderosa pine, fir and maple. Hanging gardens of maiden hair fern, pink-flowered shooting star and scarlet monkey flower can be found under rock overhangs along the river.

**General Description:** Hikers entering the internationally-renowned Virgin River Narrows hiking trail in Zion must first traverse this WSA, with scenery very similar to what they will encounter upon reaching the Park portion of the hiking route.

**Special Features:**

- The bald eagle and peregrine falcon visit this WSA.
- There are 12 additional animal species and 4 plant species that are considered to be sensitive that occur or may occur in the WSA.
- Elk, mule deer, and Cougar also use the WSA.



# Orderville Canyon

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**Size:** 1,750 acres

**Location:** As you go north along the eastern boundary of Zion National Park, you will come to the Orderville Canyon WSA and, a bit farther north, the North Fork of the Virgin River WSA.

**Vegetation:** Most of the area is covered by Pinyon-Juniper Woodland with a sparse understory of brush, forbs, and grasses. The remainder of the WSA is dominated by mountain shrub.



**General Description:** Orderville Canyon offers an excellent wilderness experience with plant and animal life similar to Moquith Mountain WSA. Orderville Canyon and its tributaries are becoming increasingly popular among canyoneers, who marvel at the variety and splendor of several slot canyon drops that offer hiking and rappelling which rivals many routes in Zion itself.

**Special Features:**

- The bald eagle and peregrine falcon, as well as 13 animal species and four plant species that are considered to be sensitive occur or may occur in the WSA.
- Cougar, elk, and mule deer also use the WSA.

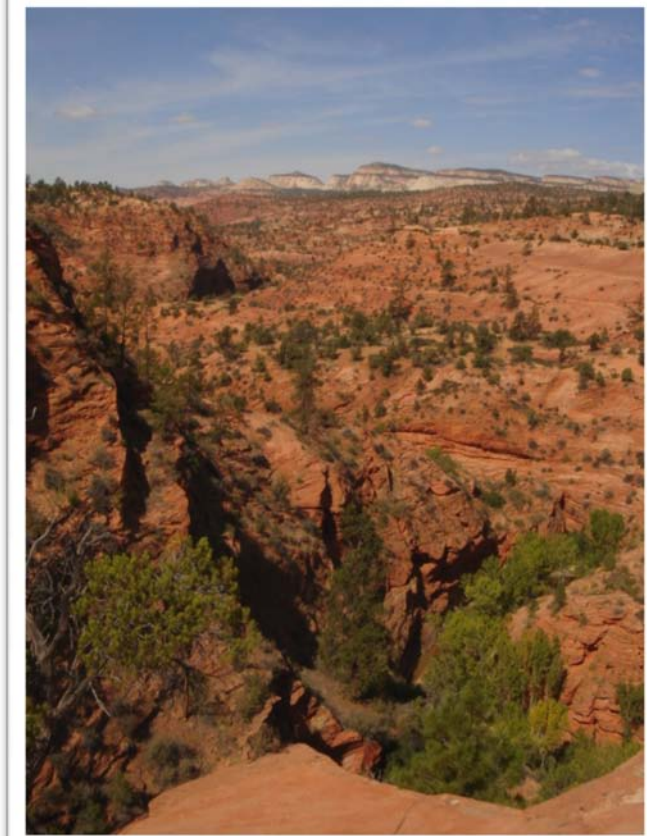
# Parunuweap

**Size:** 30,800 acres

**Location:** Traveling to the northwest about 10 miles from Kanab, you come upon the Parunuweap WSA.

**Vegetation:** The northern half of the WSA is heavily Pinyon-Juniper Woodland. The southern half of the area is a mixture of sagebrush, grasses, pinyon and juniper.

**General Description:** This expanse of public land offers stunning canyon vistas and a unique hiking opportunity. By following the East Fork of the Virgin River, you can hike over ten miles through the canyons into the east side of Zion National Park. Bear in mind to check with the Park concerning fees. Also, the Park currently maintains a research area immediately downstream of the WSA that is closed to backcountry use. The northern half of Parunuweap is heavily wooded with pinyon and juniper with a jeep trail leading down into the canyon. This route should only be taken by people experienced in driving on rough mountain roads. The main landmarks in and directly south of the southern portion of the WSA are Harris Mountain and Elephant Butte. Again, springs and plant life concentrate animals in the area. Mule deer are common, and with the mule deer come predatory mountain lions. Many kinds of hawks, eagles and other birds can also be seen in the area. Beware, however, since rattlesnakes are also common here.



## Special Features:

- A major historical feature is the Elephant Gap or Foote Ranch Road, believed to follow the pioneer route between Pipe Spring, Arizona, and Long Valley, Utah. About 4.5 miles of this route are cherry-stemmed from the WSA and 4 miles are considered to be a way within the WSA.
- The state sensitive bald eagle occasionally roosts in the WSA in the winter.
- The peregrine falcon may nest within the WSA.
- The golden eagle may also sometimes inhabit or nest in the WSA.
- Other state sensitive or USFWS candidate or threatened animal species that may inhabit the WSA include ferruginous hawk, Mexican spotted owl, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and Bell's vireo.
- USFWS candidate, threatened or endangered plant species that may occur in the WSA are *Asplenium andrewsii*, *Erigeron sionis*, *Heterotheca jonesii*, and *Sphaeromeria ruthia*.